

THE
COMMUNIST
PARTY



RULES

1d

THE COMMUNIST PARTY

RULES

AIMS

1. The aim of the Communist Party is to achieve a Socialist Britain in which the social ownership of the means of production and exchange shall replace the existing capitalist system and the exploitation of man by man. Socialism creates the conditions for the ultimate goal of Communism, based on the principle: From each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs.

Only a Socialist Britain, co-operating with all other peoples of the world in close, friendly, free and equal association will be able so to develop and plan the use of all Britain's material, productive and scientific resources, that every citizen will be guaranteed security, the right to work and leisure, a steadily rising standard of living liberty, and equal opportunity to enjoy a full and happy life.

The Communist Party, which is the vanguard of the working class, guided by the scientific principles of Marxism-Leninism, unites within its ranks those who are prepared to work for the achievement of Socialism. Believing that this aim can be attained only by the will of the great majority of the people, led by the working class, the Party shall:

(a) work to strengthen the organisation, political understanding and united action of the workers by hand and brain for the advancement of their standards and conditions in the struggle against capitalism, for the realisation of world peace and for the achievement of Socialism;

(b) work to maintain and extend all democratic rights of organisation, demonstration and strike, public speech, Press, assembly, and representation in Parliament and local authorities, with a view to developing a united movement of the people to elect a Parliament and Government which shall end the economic and political power of the capitalist class and establish a real people's democracy;

(c) work for the removal of all discrimination based on race, colour, sex or religion;

(d) support the common struggle of all peoples in the British Empire for national independence in order to transform the existing imperialist Empire, based on unequal rights, into a voluntary fraternal association of peoples based on equal rights;

(e) co-operate with the peoples of all countries for the defence of peace, and for the advance of freedom, democratic rights and social and economic conditions.

The Communist Party bases its international outlook on the common interests and aspirations of the working class in all countries, and is therefore in comradeship with the Communist and Workers' Parties of other countries for the victory of the common aims of the working class.

THE ADMISSION OF MEMBERS

2. Membership shall be open to persons of eighteen years and upwards, who accept the aims of the Party, pay their dues regularly, and work in a Party organisation.

3. Membership dues shall be 6d. per week. In each quarter of 13 weeks the total shall be allocated as follows: 2s. 3d. to the Executive Committee, 2s. 3d. to the District Committee, 1s. 6d. to the Branch, and 6d. to the Central Election Fund.

Membership dues for unemployed members, housewives and old-age pensioners shall be 2d. per week, which shall be allocated in the same proportion as above.

4. The following procedure shall be adopted in the admission of new members:

(a) Applicants shall fill in an application form and shall be interviewed by a responsible representative of the Branch or other Committee concerned, who shall report back so that the Committee may discuss and decide upon the application. If the member is accepted the Committee shall take immediate steps to ensure that a Party card is issued and contact arranged with the Party organisation.

(b) Upon the issue of a Party card the registration form shall be filled in by the member and returned to the Committee concerned.

5. Members transferring from one Party organisation to another shall have the transfer in the Party card signed by their Branch Secretary. In all cases the Secretary before accepting the member shall obtain confirmation of his status from the member's previous District Secretary.

6. Persons who have at any time left the Party shall not be readmitted until they have satisfied the Branch Committee on their reasons for leaving and for seeking readmission. The Branch Committee shall consult the District Committee before the application is accepted.

7. Persons expelled from the Party shall not be readmitted except with the consent of the Executive Committee.

8. All members shall produce their Party card in order to obtain admission to Party business meetings and it shall be the responsibility of all Party organisations to carry out card inspection at such meetings. Loss of a Party card shall be reported immediately to the Branch Secretary, and shall be regarded as a serious breach of responsibility.

9. The decision to lapse a member of the Party for non-payment of Party dues is a serious step which shall be taken only after the most careful consideration by the Party Branch Committee, and the following procedure shall be operated:

(a) Members who are more than thirteen weeks in arrears shall be considered for lapsing by the Branch

Committee if it is established that regular visits over a period have failed to produce any result, and that no special circumstances or difficulties prevent such members from carrying out their financial responsibilities to the Party.

(b) Any such decision to lapse shall first be sent in writing to the member concerned and then be reported by the Branch Committee to the higher Party Committee for endorsement before it is operated, and the latter shall satisfy itself that the procedure in 9 (a) above has been observed.

PARTY MEMBERS—THEIR DUTIES AND RIGHTS

10. Party members shall have the duty :

(a) with the assistance of the Party, to improve their political knowledge and understanding of Marxist-Leninist theory, to take part in discussion of Party policy, to equip themselves to take an active and helpful part in the working-class movement, to read, study and popularise the Daily Worker and Party literature, to win support for the aims and policy of the Party, to win new members to its ranks, and to take part in the activities of their Party organisation;

(b) to belong to and assist in the work of their appropriate trade union or professional organisation and their Co-operative Society;

(c) to observe Party discipline, to carry out in practice the policy and decisions of the Party, and to fight against everything which is detrimental to the interests of the Party and the working class.

11. All Party members shall have the right :

(a) to take part, through their Party organisation, in the discussions of all questions of Party policy and of the carrying out of such policy;

(b) to elect and be elected to Party Committees;

(c) to address any question or statement to any Party Committee up to and including the Executive Committee.

DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM

12. The organisational structure of the Party is based on the principles of democratic centralism:

- (a) The election of all leading Party Committees.
- (b) The responsibility of all such leading Party Committees to submit reports at regular intervals to the Party organisations which have elected them.
- (c) Minorities shall accept the decisions of the majority.
- (d) The lower Party organisations shall accept the decisions of the higher Party organisations.

13. All Party members have the right and the duty to participate to the full in discussion of Party policy as laid down in Rule 11 (a). Criticisms and disagreements with the policy of the Party should be raised by any member in his Party organisation.

If there is a majority in support of such criticism, then the matter should be taken to the higher Committee for decision. During the time the matter is being discussed, it is the duty of all members of the Party organisation to carry out to the full the policy of the Party until the final decision is reached.

If the individual member does not receive support from his Party organisation, it is his duty to accept the majority decision and carry out to the full the policy of the Party. He may, at the same time, however, address an individual statement to the appropriate higher Committee as under Rule 11 (c).

14. THE NATIONAL CONGRESS

(a) The National Congress shall be the supreme authority of the Party, and be responsible for the adoption of general policy and for the laying down of the general lines of the work of the Party and of its Executive Committee.

(b) The National Congress shall be convened by the Executive Committee every two years, and be composed of delegates from District Committees and from Branches, elected in accordance with their numerical

strength, on a basis determined by the Executive Committee:

(c) The agenda and preliminary materials for the Congress shall be issued to Party organisations two months before the date fixed for the Congress, and shall be considered and discussed by all Party organisations and members. Resolutions for the Congress agenda or amendments to draft resolutions issued by the Executive Committee may be sent in by Party Branches and District Committees up to four weeks before the date of the Congress.

(d) The National Congress shall elect, from nominations made by Branches and District Committees, an Executive Committee, an Appeals Committee, and two Auditors.

(e) Members of the Appeals Committee and the Auditors shall not be members of the Executive Committee.

(f) Upon a request from not less than one-third of the District Committees or one-fifth of the Branches, the Executive Committee shall convene a Special National Congress, composed in the same way and with the same powers as the National Congress. A special National Congress may also be convened by the Executive Committee on its own initiative at any time.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

15. (a) The Executive Committee shall have full responsibility for the direction and control of the Party's work, and for the formulation of current policy, in accordance with the decisions of National Congress.

(b) It shall guide and direct the work of all Party organisations. It shall work to secure the election of Communists to Parliament, assist the work of Party members elected to Parliament, direct and control the Party press, publications and other Party enterprises, and manage the central funds of the Party.

(c) It shall elect such Officers and Committees as it may consider necessary to ensure the most efficient organisation and carrying through of the Party's work.

16. THE PARTY DISTRICT

(a) Districts shall be constituted by the Executive Committee. A District Congress shall be convened every two years by each District Committee, and be composed of delegates from all branches in the District, in accordance with their numerical strength, on a basis determined by the District Committee in consultation with the Executive Committee. In Districts where Area or Borough or City Committees exist, representation from these bodies can be decided at the discretion of the District Committee.

(b) The District Committee shall be elected by the District Congress, from nominations made by Party branches. It shall guide the work of Party organisations in the District, and work to secure the election of Communists to Parliament and local government, and assist Party members elected to local government and other public bodies; direct and control District Party enterprises, and manage the District funds of the Party.

(c) The District Committee, in agreement with the Executive Committee, may constitute and provide for the election of Area, City or Borough Committees, and determine the function of these bodies.

THE PARTY BRANCH

17.

(a) The basic unit of the Party is the Party Branch.

(b) Such basic units shall be organised, on the authority of the District Committee, based upon an enterprise (a Factory Branch) or locality (a Local Branch).

(c) A Factory Branch shall comprise all Party members employed in a particular factory, pit or other place of work.

(d) A Local Branch shall comprise members living or employed in a defined area, with the exception of those members organised in a factory branch.

(e) Every Party Branch shall hold an annual general meeting, at the beginning of each year, which shall

discuss the work carried out in the previous year, decide upon the future lines of work, receive a financial statement, and elect a Branch Committee. This Branch Committee shall be responsible for electing officers, calling regular branch meetings, organising the efficient collection of dues and regular political contact with members, initiating and guiding the organised political work and education of its members in accordance with Party policy and branch decisions, directing and controlling all branch activities, and managing the branch funds.

(f) A Factory Branch Committee shall have as its first responsibility the organisation of all members in the enterprise to carry out the policy of the Party and recruit their fellow-workers into its ranks, in order to build a factory organisation capable of making a decisive contribution to the Labour movement. The Factory Branch Committee shall encourage its members to help the work of the Party in the area where they live, shall itself maintain contact with the local branch in whose area the factory is situated, and give support to any electoral campaigns the local branch may organise in the area.

(g) A Local Branch Committee shall encourage and assist its members in industry to undertake political activity in their place of work. It shall also actively assist the work of the factory branches in its area, and the development of activity in particular enterprises in preparation for the setting up of a factory branch. The Local Branch shall undertake consistent political activity amongst the residents in its area, and shall work to secure the election of Communists to Parliament, and to local government bodies.

BREACHES OF PARTY DISCIPLINE

18. The Executive Committee shall have the right to apply disciplinary measures to any Party organisation which fails to carry out Party decisions. Such disciplinary measures can include partial reorganisation of its Party

Committee, or dismissal of this Committee and the appointment of a Provisional Committee, or dissolution of the entire Party organisation and re-registration of its membership.

19. Action against any member guilty of breaches of Party Rules or any other conduct detrimental to the Party shall be carried out according to the following procedure:

(a) The Party Branch shall have the power to remove from office, to suspend for a period not exceeding three months, or to recommend to the District Committee expulsion, on the decision of a simple majority of the members attending a branch meeting, of which all members have had written notice, at least seven days in advance, of the issue to be discussed, and where the member concerned has been given the opportunity of attending and stating his case.

(b) The Borough, City or Area Committee shall have the power to remove from office, to suspend for a period not exceeding three months, or to recommend to the District Committee expulsion, provided that the reason for such action has been explained to a meeting of members of the Party organisation concerned summoned in accordance with procedure under (a) above, at which opportunity has been given to the member to be present and state his case.

(c) The Executive Committee or District Committee shall have the power to remove from office, suspend for a period of three months, or expel, and shall explain the reason for this action at a meeting of the Party organisation concerned.

20. In the case of suspension, it shall be the responsibility of the Party organisation to have discussions with the comrade concerned before the period of suspension is at an end.

21. All such disciplinary action must be notified in writing, through the District Committee to the Executive Committee.

APPEAL

22. Every Party member shall have the right of appeal against any disciplinary action taken against him by his Party Branch to his Area, Borough or City Committee where these committees exist, then to his District Committee. A member shall have the right of appeal against any disciplinary action taken against him by his Borough, City or Area, to his District Committee. A member shall have the right to appeal against a decision of his District Committee to the Appeals Committee.

23. The Appeals Committee shall consider all such appeals and shall report its decision to the Executive Committee for endorsement or otherwise.

24. A decision of the Executive Committee shall be final save that a member may appeal to the subsequent National Congress.

25. All appeals shall be made in writing to the committee concerned within fourteen days of the member being notified in writing of the decision appealed against.

26. All disciplinary measures operate from the time the decision is taken, unless and until they are reversed by the higher authority.

INTERPRETATION AND ALTERATION TO RULES

27. The Executive Committee shall have authority to interpret these Rules and to lay down procedure in all matters not specifically covered by them.

28. The Rules may be amended by the vote of a simple majority of delegates at a National Congress, provided that the following procedure has been carried out:

(a) All proposed alterations to rule shall be submitted by the Executive Committee, District Committee or Party Branches not later than four months before the date of the National Congress.

(b) The Executive Committee shall consider all such proposed alterations, and shall circulate these, together with its comments and its own proposals, as part of the material for the National Congress.

Daily Worker

**THE NEWSPAPER
FOR FACTORY
AND FAMILY**

2½d

Issued by the Communist Party, 16 King Street, London,
W.C.2, and printed by Farleigh Press Ltd. (T.U. all depts.)
— CP/W/98/10/56

Communists to Labour: LET'S TALK IT OVER

HOW soon can we end Tory Government rule? This has become the big question for all of us. More and more people now realise that it would be wrong and dangerous to allow the Tories to misgovern this country for another three years.

The sooner they are cleared out, the better.

How can the people's opposition be expressed, so that the Tories are compelled to resign?

What more can be done to exert the full power of the labour movement against the Tory Government and for the return of Labour?

CONTINUED ➤



and secure a negotiated settlement in Cyprus.

In this way, every section of the trade union, labour and co-operative movement could work together in a united effort for the early defeat of the Tories and the return of a Labour Government.

IEWS WE SHARE

Today there are many things on which all of us are agreed. Besides, our country and our labour movement are facing many serious problems.

Why should we continue to think only of the past, when our movement now stands on the threshold of one of its greatest testing times?

It does not help any of us to maintain out-of-date divisions in the working-class movement.

Surely the things Communist and Labour agree

END TORY RULE NOW

The Tories stand for depression at home and oppression abroad.

Over Suez—they brought us to the brink of war.

They have pushed up the price of bread and other necessities.

They threaten the security of work and the standard of living.

They back the big employers' refusal to give wage increases.

On armaments, they waste manpower, materials and money the country badly needs.

In the colonies, they are guilty of suppression and needless killings. They reject every chance of conciliation in Cyprus.

For the minority of millionaire monopoly concerns, the Tories bring bumper profits. But they betray Britain's welfare, its peace and security.

about are of greater importance than those on which we may disagree?

CONTINUED ➤

DO YOU AGREE?

Do you agree with this suggestion that Labour and Communist people should meet, to talk things over?

If you do—then there are a number of things you can do to help.

Can you raise the idea in your organisation of a united public campaign in your locality against the Tories?

Can you ask members of the nearest Labour and Communist Parties to meet each other, to talk this over?

Can you raise the question of the bans and proscriptions which help to maintain divisions in the labour movement?

Can you try to secure support from organisations and individuals for the idea of a meeting between members of the Labour and Communist Party Executives?

And can you write to one of the newspapers listed here, putting your point of view?

NEWSPAPERS TO WRITE TO

DAILY HERALD, Long Acre,
London, W.C.2.

REYNOLDS News, Wicklow
Street, London, W.C.1.

DAILY WORKER, Farring-
don Road, London,
E.C.1.

TRIBUNE, 222 Strand,
London, W.C.2.

NEW STATESMAN, Great
Turnstile, London,
W.C.1.

FORWARD, 145 Holborn,
London, E.C.1.

WORLD NEWS, 27 Bedford
Street, London, W.C.2.

THE DAILY WORKER

The newspaper you can
depend on for
all the news for all the family
2½d. *Order it from your newsagent.*

This folder is published by
THE COMMUNIST PARTY
16 King Street, London, W.C.2
Write for details of membership
or copies of this folder 2s. per 100